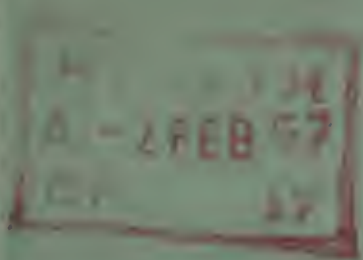


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BOROUGH OF CONGLETON

REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough**

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1955.



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Medical Officer of Health—L. Rich, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—R. G. Whiston, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—E. V. Robinson, M.S.I.A.

Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector—J. R. Adderley, M.S.I.A.
(Resigned July, 1955)

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1955 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

There has been no marked change in the vital statistics during the year, but it is gratifying to note the very low incidence of infant mortality, and that with over 200 births there has not been a single maternal death.

The prevalence of infectious disease throughout the year was not excessive, but it is disturbing to note the increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified. As pointed out in previous reports, many cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are contracted whilst the individual is at work. The purpose of the B.C.G. Campaign is to vaccinate school children to increase their resistance before taking up employment. It is therefore the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children receive the benefits of vaccination when the offer is made at the school.

An outstanding event during the year was a survey, carried out by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff, of all privately owned houses in the Borough to ascertain the number of unfit houses. Details are given in this report of the extent and results of the work done. The thoroughness and care with which this task was carried out reflects great credit on all concerned. As a result, the Council decided that some 800

houses should be dealt with under the Slum Clearance programme during the course of the next few years. The eventual completion of this task will result in a great change in the town and an incaluable improvement in the health and standard of living of our people.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to Mr. J. Mee, our Clerk, his Deputy and other members of his staff, for the help and guidance which have assisted me materially in the carrying out of my duties. I also wish to record my indebtedness to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. G. Whiston, with whom I work most closely, and who, together with Mr. Halpin, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, have assisted me in compiling this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health.

The figures in brackets throughout this report are for 1954.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Estimated population 15820 (15730)

Births

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	{ Legitimate	... 200 (208)	107 (92)	93 (116)
	{ Illegitimate	... 9 (5)	7 (2)	2 (3)
Still births	{ Legitimate	... 2 (8)	- (3)	2 (5)
	{ Illegitimate	... - (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid. 1955 13 (13.4)

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 15 (15.2)

Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 9.4 (36.2)

Still birth rate per 1000 total population .12 (.5)

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1000 total population .34 (.36)

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

		Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	4 (8)	2 (5)	2 (3)
Illegitimate	...	- (1)	- (-)	- (1)

Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births 19.1 (42.1)

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 24.9 (25.4)

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 20 (38.4)

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 0 (200)

Deaths

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths, all ages	... 212 (201)	101 (101)	111 (100)

Death rate per 1000 estimated average population 13.6 (12.9)

Death rate for England & Wales per 1000 of the population 11.7 (11.3)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	3	2	1
Tuberculosis, other ...	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	8	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	32	16	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—
Diabetes ...	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	31	13	18
Coronary disease, angina ...	36	20	16
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	—	2
Other heart diseases ...	27	13	14
Other circulatory disease ...	19	6	13
Influenza ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	1	2
Bronchitis ...	11	4	7
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	4	4	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ...	1	1	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	15	7	8
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	2	1
All other accidents ...	5	1	4
Suicide ...	1	1	—
Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
Total ...	212	101	111

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

		No. of Deaths	
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	...	0	(1)
		—	—
Total	...	0	(1)
		—	—

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ... 0 (0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

The work at the Ante-Natal Clinic continues to flourish, although the figures are not as high as last year. It is proposed in the near future to open a Midwives Clinic, where in addition to the clinical work carried out, lectures and demonstrations are given in mothercraft and relaxation exercises.

The attendances at the Infant Welfare Centre have increased. As pointed out in previous reports, our main concern at the Clinic is to ensure that the babies are properly fed and to give the mother help and instruction on the rearing of her children. A considerable amount of immunisation is carried out in addition to this health education.

Statistics.

Mothers' Clinics

	New Cases		Total Attendances		No. of Clinics held	
Ante-natal	90	(164)	518	(680)	50	(49)
Dental :—						
Pre-natal	1	(3)	1	(9)		
Nursing Mothers	9	(8)	19	(19)		
Dentures supplied		4	(6)			

Infant Welfare

New Cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
169	-	-	1487	223	188	48	817	17
(130)	(-)	(-)	(1196)	(233)	(184)	(48)	(936)	(19.5)

	New Cases		Total Attendances		No. of Clinics held		Average per Clinic	
Ophthalmic Clinic	1	(3)	7	(14)	12	(12)	.5	(1.1)
E.N.T. Clinic	2	(-)	2	(-)	5	(6)	.4	(-)

Welfare Foods.

The Divisional Health Committee was delegated the duty of the sale and distribution of Welfare Foods for Infants, Pregnant and Nursing Mothers. These foods consist of National Dried Milk, Vitamin Tablets, Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice, and to carry out this function, arrangements were made at the Clinic premises, 12, West Street, where each afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 9 to 12, sales are carried on. I am pleased to report that we have been able satisfactorily to meet all the demands and there have been no complaints.

Welfare Foods Sold—1955.

Distribution Centre	National Dried Milk		A & D Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
	F. Cream	H. Cream			
12, West Street, Congleton	8920	149	757	2191	11746

Day Nursery.

The average attendance for the year was over 100%. This is accounted for by the fact that although the permitted number is 40, we are allowed to raise this to 48 should the demand warrant it.

Concession in payments are made where necessary, for example to un-married mothers or widows, but these are few and the bulk of the people attending pay the full amount laid down in the scale.

As pointed out in previous reports, each case is carefully investigated by the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee before admission is granted. A new form was innovated during the year requiring details of the financial situation of the applicant. This was thought necessary by the Committee to ensure that, where reasons of financial hardship is stated by the applicants, the justification of this may be fairly assessed.

Day Nursery—Attendances 1955.

	Average No. Attending	Total Attendances
0-2 years	9 (9.5)	2191 (2326)
2-5 years	33.2 (30.5)	8121 (7533)

Jan. %	Feb. %	March %	April %	May %	June %	July %	Aug %	Sept. %	Oct. %	Nov. %	Dec. %	1955 %
93.8 (103.1)	105.2 (103.5)	108.6 (100.2)	(108.7) (105.4)	115.5 (88.5)	105.6 (92.1)	110 (80.9)	102.7 (79.7)	106.7 (113.6)	105.7 (111)	109.2 (106.1)	96.8 (105)	105.7 (99.1)

Midwifery.

The two midwives employed by the Cheshire County Council are:—

Name	Address	Telephone No.
D. H. Wright	Ewanrigg, Giantswood Lane, Congleton	Congleton 240
M. Williams	115, Woolston Avenue, Congleton	Congleton 690

In addition, Nurse M. S. Bowman, 4, High Lowe Avenue, Congleton, combines the duties of Home Nurse with that of District Midwife.

As will be noted from the table below, over 70% of births occur in hospital. As pointed out in previous reports, this figure of hospital confinements is probably much too high. Many mothers could quite satisfactorily and safely have their babies at home. It will always be necessary, however, for many mothers to have their babies in hospital for medical and social reasons.

Births 1955.

Hospital		Home		Private N. Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
151 (139)	— (5)	65 (64)	1 (2)	2 (8)	— (1)

Home Nursing.

Two District Nurses are resident in Congleton Borough. They both occupy Council Houses, one of which is furnished and maintained through the Divisional Medical Office.

Name	Address	Telephone No.
M. S. Bowman	4, High Lowe Avenue, Congleton	Congleton 444
R. Ward	24, The Westlands, Congleton	Congleton 2104

The work of the Home Nurse in assisting the General Practitioner in the treatment of patients at home helps very considerably in relieving the strain on our hospitals. No finer tribute could be paid to this work than by recalling that no single complaint was received during the year.

Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, is available for Bacteriological analysis of water, milk, ice cream and food as and when we require it. They also undertake to carry out examination of all swabs submitted. This is a free service, and I wish to record the ever ready help and assistance I have received from Dr. Phease, the Director of this Laboratory, particularly in connection with food poisoning and infectious disease cases.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

It is difficult to estimate accurately the percentage of children under the age of 15 who have been immunised against Diphtheria. It would appear that the figure is probably somewhere between 60% and 65%. If this is so, it is not nearly high enough, as there is definite evidence to show that where the incidence of immunisation is low, outbreaks of Diphtheria recur. The difficulty we are up against is that, to the young mother, Diphtheria is no longer a frightening disease, and if it was not for the fact that we combine Diphtheria immunisation with that of Whooping Cough, I fear that the figures would be much lower.

The value of Whooping Cough Immunisation is now becoming apparent. I have been able to record cases of children who have been immunised, in contact with their older brothers and sisters who have not been protected and have contracted Whooping Cough, remaining free of the disease. There is also evidence to show that if Whooping Cough is contracted in an immunised child, it is a very mild disease. It is important to immunise against Whooping Cough in the early months of a child's life, for the mortality in this disease is greatest in the first year of life.

Not nearly enough children have been offered for vaccination against Smallpox. Although this dread disease rarely occurs in this country, it is always likely to break out. Parents do not realise that to vaccinate a young baby of three months is a relatively harmless procedure. If, however, an older child or an adult has to be done, the reaction and complications can be quite serious. Primary vaccination in infancy renders a secondary vaccination later in life relatively free of these complications.

Statistics.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Pre-school children	...	...	13	(34)
School children	...	...	92	(8)
			<hr/> 105	<hr/> (42)
Reinforcing Injections	...	...	395	(88)

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-school children	...	...	5	(17)
School children	...	...	103	(5)
			<hr/> 108	<hr/> (22)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria and Whooping Cough).

Pre-school children	...	...	165	(165)
School children	...	...	100	(13)
			<hr/> 265	<hr/> (178)

Primary Vaccination.

Pre-school children	...	...	69	(70)
School children	...	...	2	(10)
Adults	...	...	4	(5)
			<hr/> 75	<hr/> (85)

Re-Vaccination.

Pre-school children	...	...	-	(-)
School children	...	...	-	(-)
Adults	...	...	6	(15)
			<hr/> 6	<hr/> (15)

Ambulance and Sitting Case Car Transport.

An important event during the year was the acquisition of a Garage in Cross Street, Congleton. Although it has meant more expense, the advantages are considerable. The vehicles can now be kept under cover when waiting during the day, and proper facilities have been provided for the drivers to clean and maintain their vehicles. We have also been able to introduce the provision of our own petrol and oil supplies which not only makes for greater convenience, but will undoubtedly save a considerable sum and offset the increased cost of garaging.

I am pleased to report that no serious complaint was received during the year and that full co-operation has been received from our contractor, Messrs. S. Bourne & Son. As pointed out in previous reports, every effort is made to work the vehicles as economically as possible, and at the same time, maintaining a high standard of service.

Ambulance Figures—1955.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mileages	3641 (4344)	3391 (3178)	3519 (3157)	3977 (3383)	3347 (4041)	5509 (3097)	5170 (3716)	4941 (3689)	5202 (4351)	4470 (4607)	4693 (4054)	5302 (3978)
Journeys	132 (158)	121 (123)	123 (144)	123 (112)	120 (127)	155 (118)	168 (123)	178 (112)	180 (122)	155 (133)	166 (132)	184 (123)
Patients	419 (440)	452 (384)	435 (292)	459 (313)	472 (376)	569 (409)	536 (521)	619 (462)	632 (517)	685 (386)	597 (343)	649 (508)

Domestic Help Service.

There has been an increase in the number of cases attended during 1955 and a very considerable increase in the number of hours worked.

It is the work of the Health Visitors and the Domestic Helps that enables us to look after many old people in their own homes who otherwise would have to enter Part III accommodation or hospital. Indeed, it is becoming extremely difficult to get old people into hospital, even when it is necessary, and many cases are being treated at home through the Nursing and Home Help Service who otherwise would suffer great hardship.

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Congleton during 1955 are as follows :—

Home Helps employed during 1955

Full Time	...	-	(-)
Temporary	...	15	(19)
Casual	...	3	(1)
		<u>18</u>	<u>(20)</u>

Home Helps employed at 31st December, 1955

Full Time	...	-	(-)
Temporary	...	13	(11)
Casual	...	-	(-)
		<u>13</u>	<u>(11)</u>

Applications received during 1955

Confinement	...	7	(5)
Sickness	...	6	(10)
Tuberculosis	...	1	(-)
Aged and Infirm	...	20	(12)
		<u>34</u>	<u>(27)</u>

Cases attended during 1955

Confinement	...	3	(3)
Sickness	...	8	(16)
Tuberculosis	...	1	(-)
Aged and Infirm	...	47	(36)
		<u>59</u>	<u>(55)</u>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. H. S. Halpin, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information.

Water.

During the year the following quantities of water have been supplied from the various sources in the Borough:—

Hug Bridge Pumping Station	455000 galls. per day
Forge Lane Pumping Station	373000 galls. per day
Buglawton Boreholes	60000 galls. per day
	<hr/>
Total	888000 galls. per day
	<hr/>

Supplies have been continued to the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board to the extent of approximately 178000 galls. per day from the total quantity of water supplied.

Samples of water have been submitted for analysis from time to time to the County Analyst and the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, and in all cases the chemical and bacteriological examinations have proved to be quite satisfactory.

The hardness of the water at present supplied from Forge Lane is 27 parts per 100000 whilst the Hug Bridge water has a total hardness of 19 and the Buglawton Borehole approximately 5 parts per 100000.

Schemes are in hand for the provision of a new water main in Congleton Edge Road and for new services at Cloudside which will enable properties at present supplied by wells to be connected to the Public Supply

A scheme is also in hand for the provision of a new water main in Holmes Chapel Road.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Schemes are in course of preparation for the sewerage of the West Heath Area of the Borough and also for the extension of the existing Sewage Works to serve a population of 20,000.

Public Cleansing.

A total of 4600 tons of House Refuse has been collected and disposed of by controlled tipping during the year.

Salvage.

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	130	6	2	1041	5	0
Kitchen Waste	...	62	6	0	242	19	4
Light Scrap	...		10	0	2	18	0
Tins	...		5 loads		5	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		193	2	2	£1292	2	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Housing.

Number of Council Houses completed in 1955

Houses	...	28	(174)
Bungalows	...	—	(3)

Private Houses completed in 1955

...

58

Number of Applicants on the Waiting List at 31st December, 1955 (excluding applications for aged persons bungalows)

...

435 (512)

Number of Visits re Housing Applications by Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector

...

29 (51)

Tuberculosis.

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1955 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1946.

Notifications—1946 to 1955.

	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 yr.		1																		
1 - 5		1							1		1				1		2			
5 - 15				3		2		2	1	1	1		1		4	2	1			
15 - 25	1		1						1		1	1			1				5	
25 - 35				1	2		3		3		1		1		1		1		1	1
35 - 45	1		2		1		2	1	2				1						1	
45 - 55	2	1	1				1		2				1						3	
55 - 65			2				1		1		2		2				1		1	
65 & over	1		2								1	1		2	1				1	
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 yr.				1		1													1	
1 - 5				2		1					1									
5 - 15		1			1			2		1					2		1			
15 - 25	4		1	1	1		1	1	5	5	2		1		1		1		1	
25 - 35	2				3				4	1	2	1	2		1				2	
35 - 45	1				1			1	1				1						2	
45 - 55							1		1								1		2	
55 - 65					1		1		1						1				1	
65 & over																				
TOTAL	12	4	9	8	10	4	10	7	20	3	13	4	9	4	6	10	6	5	21	1

Deaths - 1946 to 1955.

	1946		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 yr.																				
1 - 5					I				I											
5 - 15			I																	
15 - 25					I						I									
25 - 35			I				I				I				I					
35 - 45	I		I				I		I								I			
45 - 55	4				I				I				2							
55 - 65	2		I						I		I								I	
65 & over	I		3									I					I	I	I	

FEMALE

Up to 1 yr.				I																
1-5											I									I
5 - 15																				
15 - 25					I		I													
25 - 35	I														I					
35 - 45							I												I	
45 - 55																				
55 - 65																	I			
65 & over					I															
TOTAL	9	-	6	2	3	2	4	-	3	I	3	2	2	-	2	2	2	-	3	I

Cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1955, were as follows :—

	Up to 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 & over	Total
Male Pulmonary	—	—	4	6	8	10	11	6	5	50
Female Pulmonary	—	1	2	7	18	8	10	5	1	52
Male Non-Pulmonary	—	1	9	3	2	5	—	—	—	20
Female Non-Pulmonary	—	—	3	1	1	—	6	—	2	13

The following sections of this report cover the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department and have been compiled by Mr. R. G. Whiston the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Number
of Visits.

General.

Water supply	...	...	...	29
Drainage	...	...	...	362
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	6
Caravans	...	...	...	2
Factories	...	...	...	21
Rats & Mice	...	...	...	12
Schools	...	...	...	3
Shops Acts	...	...	...	52
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	210
Interviewing & Appointments	...	...	...	332
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	6
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	3
Pail Conversions	...	...	...	3
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	4
Farms	...	...	...	3
Hairdressers	...	...	...	1

HOUSING.

Under Public Health Acts.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	121
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	...	301

Under Housing Acts.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	23
Re-visits to Houses previously Inspected	...	...	89
Survey for Sec. 1, Housing Act, 1954	...	...	4364

Verminous Premises.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	41
Found verminous and disinfested	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	88
Improvement Grants	...	...	163

Number
of Visits*Infectious Diseases.*

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	17
Visits re Disinfection	...	...	6
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	9

Food Premises and Food Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	1688
Butchers	...	...	36
Fishmongers & Poulterers	...	...	14
Grocers	...	...	142
Dairies & Milkshops	...	...	10
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	15
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	22
Market Stalls	...	...	4
Restaurants	...	...	6
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	...	...	18
Licenced Premises	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	7
Visits in connection with sampling—Milk	...	...	1
Total			<u>8252</u>

Summary of Notices Served.

Number of Informal Notices Served	...	...	91
Number of Informal Notices Complied with	...	...	92
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	5
Number of Statutory Notices Complied with	...	...	9

Complaints.

During the year 122 complaints were received and investigated; 22 of these were unfounded.

39 were found to be relating to dangerous structures, waste of water and other matters and were referred to the Departments concerned.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Nuisances.

Following complaints and as a result of routine survey, 121 houses were inspected, a total of 81 nuisances were found and 58 informal notices were issued. In 5 cases statutory notices were served. 301 visits were made to houses previously inspected and 131 nuisances were found to be abated. 65 informal and 6 statutory notices were complied with. 4 statutory notices were served under the provisions of Section 99 of the Cheshire Council Act, 1953, requiring stoppages to be removed from drains.

Drainage.

Installation of new drainage at all premises, except Corporation properties was supervised and the necessary testing was carried out until July, 1955, when the Council appointed a Building Inspector. The repair of existing drainage was also supervised and necessary testing done. 362 visits were made in connection with this work and the tracing of existing drainage at various properties.

Water Supply.

Routine samples were taken monthly from each of the town's systems of supply and sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford, for Bacteriological examination. The reports on samples submitted showed satisfactory results.

Disinfestation.

D.D.T. and Gammexane compounds in liquid and powder form are used for this purpose, and successful results have been obtained.

The houses and household effects of new tenants for Council Houses are inspected and where necessary disinfestation is undertaken before removal. For this and other reasons, 41 inspections have been carried out and 8 premises treated.

Conversions of Pails.

The Council's resolution to make a grant of £5 towards the cost of conversion of pails to water closets was continued and 2 applications for grant were made and the conversions carried out.

Offensive Trades.

One premises is registered for tripe boiling, and is constructed on modern hygienic lines. No complaints were received in connection with the trade. 3 inspections were carried out during the year.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

Enquiries have been made into 17 cases of infectious disease. Disinfection of premises following these, and removals and deaths of T.B. cases, has been carried out and where necessary infected bedding has been taken to the Isolation Hospital, Macclesfield, for disinfection by steam.

Infected library books are treated with gaseous fumigant before return for circulation.

Caravans.

3 visits have been made in connection with the control of moveable dwellings.

Public Mortuary.

This service is under the charge of the Department and during the year there have been 19 admissions.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-54.

23 houses were inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts, and 89 revisits were made to houses previously inspected.

5 condemned houses in Clearance Areas have been demolished and the sites cleared. The demolition of 2 Clearance Areas has been completed.

One Clearance Area comprising ten houses was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation of the Clearance Order and a Public Enquiry was held.

5 Individual Unfit houses were demolished, 1 of these by informal action. One Closing Order on part of a building was made

1 Closing Order under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, was made and subsequently determined on the house being made fit.

Housing Survey.

The survey to supply the information required under Section 1 of the Housing Act, 1954, was completed and 4364 visits were made during the year. The survey covered all the privately owned houses in the Borough, a total of 3742. It was found that in 1290 cases the repair was unsatisfactory, 1436 were affected with dampness of varying degrees of severity, mostly rising dampness; the natural lighting was insufficient in 679 houses and the ventilation not satisfactory in 158. 37 houses had no water inside, 17 of these were supplied by taps in the yard or elsewhere and 20 from wells or springs outside, some of which are subject to pollution. At 159 premises the drainage was found to be unsatisfactory, these cases are mostly in the rural areas where the sink waste, etc., runs into ditches and fields. At 1036 houses, the food storage facilities were unsatisfactory, the majority having small recesses under the stairs, which have no light or ventilation.

Although account cannot be taken of the absence of hot water and baths in assessing whether or not a house is fit, a note was taken at each premises during the survey and it was found that 1453 had not hot water supply and 1619 were without baths.

***Table showing the position of Condemned Houses
at 31st December, 1955.***

	1953.	1954.	1955.
Number of occupied houses in confirmed clearance areas ...	17	10	10
Number of occupied houses in areas represented but not confirmed ...	44	41	41
Number of vacant houses in confirmed clearance areas ...	23	18	21
Number of vacant houses in areas represented but not confirmed ...	1	1	1
Number of individual unfit houses occupied ...	3	4	4
Number of individual unfit houses vacant ...	5	5	5

Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925-1932.

Number of Houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	...	1553
Number of Houses, the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		65
Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to :—		
(a) serving of notices requiring the execution of works (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	5
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	...	3
Number of notices served requiring the execution of works (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	5
Number of Houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		6
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	1
Number of Closing Orders made	...	1
Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (2) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	1
Number of Houses demolished	...	10
Number of Closing Orders under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, determined	...	1

Improvement Grants.

25 applications were received during the year and all were granted. 163 visits were made for the purpose of advising owners, inspecting following applications and supervision of work, while in progress and on completion.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.**Food Premises.**

Number of food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:—

Butchers	...	...	25
Canteens	...	...	23
Dairies	...	...	9
Milkshops	...	...	35
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...		5
Greengrocers	...	...	11
Grocers and Confectioners	...		109
Restaurants and Cafe	...		27
Bakehouses	...	...	8

262 inspections of premises used for the preparation, storage or sale of food were carried out. 44 contraventions were found and 9 informal notices issued. On re-inspection 48 contraventions had been abated, and 17 notices complied with.

Ice Cream.

There are 9 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream. 8 of these use the "cold mix" method and the remaining one has the necessary plant for heat treatment in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

54 premises are registered for the sale only of ice cream.

15 inspections have been made.

Preserved Food.

31 premises are registered for the manufacture of preserved food (sausages, potted and pressed meats, etc.) and 12 inspections of these premises were carried out.

Milk & Dairies Regulations.

Registered are 9 Dairies and 49 Distributors.

Under the Special Designation Regulations, 23 licences have been issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk, 14 for Pasteurised Milk and 43 for Sterilized Milk.

10 visits have been made in connection with registration and licensing.

Slaughterhouses.

The five private slaughterhouses continued operating throughout the year and all licences renewed for a period of 12 months in June.

1688 visits were made to these premises during the year to carry out meat inspection and the carcasses and offal of all animals killed were inspected.

I would point out that since decontrol the number of animals killed has increased over $2\frac{1}{2}$ times and the number of visits by 3 times and also that this extra work on Meat Inspection has meant that the time spent on other statutory duties has had to be considerably reduced.

Disposal of Condemned Meat.

All meat and offal condemned is collected by the Council and sold to Messrs. Beeson Bros., of Crewe, expenses are deducted and the balance is paid to the Slaughterhouse occupiers.

The weights of meat and offal collected is shown in the table below.

A sum of £247 16s. 9d. has been paid by Messrs. Beeson Bros., £43 4s. 0d. expenses deducted and the balance of £204 12s. 9d. paid to the slaughterhouse occupiers.

Deadweight Certification of Pigs.

In 1954 the Council adopted the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for the deadweight certification of pigs and at four of the private slaughterhouses centres were set up. During the year, 970 clean pigs were certified under the provisions of the scheme, for which the Council was reimbursed £46 3s. 0d. from the Ministry.

MEAT & OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected.

	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1953	5	99	822	228	333	4261	741	6489
1954	8	189	1340	548	517	9177	2799	14578
1955	65	215	2462	583	412	8636	4819	17192

*Particulars of Animals Slaughtered at each of the
Private Slaughterhouses.*

Slaughterhouse	Bulls	Steers	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
E.&G.Vernon West Street	3	2	151	13	14	501	424	1108
J. Clowes Antrobus St	-	4	27	20	4	94	12	161
J.F.Longman Princess St	62	148	2035	398	395	7237	3639	13914
Co-op Society Moor Street	-	61	137	150	-	478	617	1443
W. Bennett Wagg Street	-	-	110	2	1	326	127	566

*Weight of Meat Condemned at each of the Private
Slaughterhouses.*

	Beef lbs.	Mutton lbs.	Veal lbs.	Pork lbs.	Offal lbs.
E. & G. Vernon	...	730	—	170	2200
J. Clowes	...	—	—	91	69
J. F. Longman	...	8147	785	896	581
Co-op. Society	...	658	—	80	2101
W. Bennett	...	200	—	17	571
Total		9735	785	1066	2969

Total Weight of Meat Condemned.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	4	6	3
Mutton	...	—	7	—
Veal	...	—	9	2
Pork	...	1	6	2
Offal	...	12	1	3
Total		18	11	3

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Part or Whole.

	Cattle Ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed ...	863	2462	412	8636	4819
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	1	6	22	24	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	140	462	3	848	460
Percentage affected with diseases, other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis					
1953	33.43	39.29	21.02	32.36	17.81
1954	11.38	18.66	11.99	12.36	13.83
1955	16.34	19.01	6.31	10.10	9.9
Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	3	11	—	—	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	104	510	—	—	202
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis					
1953	16.87	34.67	.6	—	6.86
1954	11.38	26.27	—	—	5.5
1955	12.4	21.16	—	—	4.27
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part was condemned ...	13	15	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration ...	No records for 1955				
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected with Cysticercosis					
1955	1.5	.61	—	—	—

Other Foods Condemned.

		Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Canned Goods	...	5	I	12
Other Foods	...	5	I	9

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

No animals were slaughtered under the provisions of the above order.

Congenital Tuberculosis in Calves.

During the year no carcasses of calves were found to be affected with Congenital Tuberculosis.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The stunning of all animals in the Borough is carried out by means of captive bolt pistols.

2 Slaughtermen's Licences were issued and 29 renewed during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council has one full time operative whose duties are concerned with the destruction of rats and mice.

12 visits have been made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with complaints and general supervision.

All work at business premises was carried out after written or verbal informal intimation had been given and no statutory notices have been served.

A summary of the incidence and treatment carried out is appended.

Prevalence of Rats and Mice.

	Type of Property.				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	
Total number of properties in Local Authority's district ...	37	4742	126	902	5807
Number of properties inspected as a result of					
(a) notification ...	7	91	4	33	135
(b) otherwise ...	15	66	2	16	99
Number of properties found to be infested by rats ...	Major —	—	—	—	—
	Minor 16	97	6	18	137
Number of properties found to be infested by mice...	5	36	—	24	65
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	17	138	6	45	206

Maintenance Treatment for Rats in Sewers.

It is estimated that there are 425 man-holes in the Borough, a test bait of 10% of these was undertaken and two treatments carried out during the year.

At the first treatment 12 man-holes were pre-baited, 3 showed "Takes" and were poisoned; at the second, 49 man-holes were pre-baited and 1 poisoned.

Shops Act, 1950.

52 Inspections have been carried out under the provisions of the Act 13 contraventions were noted and as a result 8 informal notices were served. 5 informal notices were complied with and 14 contraventions remedied.

Factory Act, 1937.

33 inspections have been made and a summary of visits, contraventions and notices is as follows :—

Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	7	1	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	135	20	1	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	142	21	1	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were	
	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences		
(a) insufficient ...	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	13	7
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—
Total ...	13	7

3 Certificates have been granted during 1955 in respect of adequate means of escape in case of fire, under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Outworkers.

No lists of outworkers were submitted by factories in the area.

